

**CLAIMS**

I claim:

1. A safety apparatus for use with an audio device, the audio device having an output circuit for controlling a signal to a means for outputting sound, the safety apparatus comprising:
  - a) a detector circuit for detecting the presence of a pre-determined sound;
  - b) a mute circuit connected to the detector circuit and cooperative with the audio device for controlling the output circuit and hereby permitting the mute circuit to control said signal to the means for outputting sound.
2. The safety apparatus of claim 1 wherein said means for outputting sound is a head phone.
3. The safety apparatus of claim 1 wherein said means for outputting sound is a speaker.
4. The safety apparatus of claim 1 wherein said mute circuit turns off the signal to said means for outputting sound.
5. The safety apparatus of claim 1 wherein said mute circuit lowers the signal thereby reducing the sound output of said means for outputting sound.
6. The safety apparatus of claim 1 wherein said predetermined sound is an emergency (police/ambulance) siren.

7. The safety apparatus of claim 1 having input means to allow the user to modify the detector circuit for responding to different noises and sounds.

8. A portable safety apparatus for use by disabled person (e.g., hearing impaired), the safety apparatus comprising:

a detector circuit for detecting the presence of a pre-determined sound;

a notice circuit connected to said detector circuit, and useable by the disabled person to notify said disabled person of the presence of a pre-determined sound.

9. The safety apparatus of claim 8 having input means to allow the customization of the notice circuit for modifying the types of notice (mute, visual, tactile) given to the person.

10. The safety apparatus of claim 8 wherein said safety apparatus is wearable by the disabled person.

11. The safety apparatus if claim 8 wherein said safety apparatus includes a chain and a means for hanging said safety apparatus from the neck of said disabled person.

12. The safety apparatus if claim 8 wherein said safety apparatus includes a chain and a means for hanging said safety apparatus from the neck of said disabled person.

13. The safety apparatus of claim 8 wherein said notice circuit provides a tactile warning (e.g., vibration) to the disabled person.

14. The safety apparatus of claim 8 wherein said pre-determined sound is a siren.